



ISSUE 140

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ISLAMIC FOCUS

10 DEEDS

for protection &
blessings in a home
or business premises

HADITH
VERIFICATION SERIES 02
Earning Halaal



DUAS

that changed the world



ZIMDAHL

Masjid

CULMINATION OF A DREAM

CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR

Ahlan Wasahlan

We are fortunate to experience another blessed month of Ramadaan.

In this Ramadaan issue, we bring you 10 deeds designed to bring blessings and protection in one's home and business. This is especially vital in a turbulent world.

Our Duas that Changed the World series continues. The powerful Duas of the Prophets alaihimus salaam are applicable to the various testing occasions we experience in life. They are designed to bring solace and change our destiny.

Ramadaan is the powerhouse of the Muslims. From the Battle of Badr to the expulsion of the Crusaders from Palestine, many an important event in Muslim history has taken place in this month. Browse over to the article to read more.

Reading is fast becoming a lost art. The article by Shakira Akabor shows how technology can be harnessed to bring alive this important skill in kids. Take a trip down memory lane in the write up on the Zimdahl Masjid project, a culmination of a dream and food for thought about how much we need to appreciate the Islamic facilities we enjoy.

The Hadith verification series looks at the reward for earning a Halaal livelihood. Our regular, and popular, Insight into Fiqh series details some differences in the laws of marriage and divorce from the Shafi and Hanafi viewpoints.

Comments:
info@islamicfocus.co.za.

Muhammad Badsha
(Moulana)

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ANSWERS



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10 DEEDS

for protection
& blessings in a
home or business
premises

The following may be done in any home/business/premises, be it new or old.

DEEDS FOR PROTECTION

1 **Recite Surah Baqarah**
Sayyiduna Abu Umamah (radiyallahu'anhu) reports that Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) said: '...Recite Surah Al Baqarah, for [reciting it and practising on it] is a blessing and abandoning it will be a cause of grief and regret, and those involved in witchcraft cannot confront it.' (Sahih Muslim, Hadith: 1871)

Sayyiduna Abu Hurayrah (radiyallahu'anhu) reports that Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) said: '...Indeed Shaytan flees from that home in which Surah Baqarah is recited.' (Sahih Muslim, Hadith: 1821)

People generally like to have their homes secure from the effects of black magic, evil Jinn etc. Therefore many have the habit of reciting Surah Baqarah in their new homes/businesses, as it keeps away the Jinn as well as black magic.

2 **The last two verses of Surah Baqarah**
Sayyiduna Nu'man ibn Bashir (radiyallahu'anhu) reports that Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) said; '...If these two verses are recited for three nights in a home, no Shaytan shall come near it.' (Sunan Tirmidhi, Hadith: 2882)

Practicing on this will insha Allah protect the new premises from the Shaytan/evil Jinn.

3 **The ten verses of Surah Baqarah**
Sayyiduna 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud (radiyallahu'anhu) said: 'If these ten verses are recited in a home, no Shaytan shall enter it till the morning.' (Sunan Darimi, Hadith: 3382 and Al-Mu'jamul Kabir, Hadith: 8673)

4 **Call out the Adhan**
Sayyiduna Abu Hurayrah (radiyallahu'anhu) reports that Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) said: 'When the

muadhin calls the adhan, Shaytan flees hurriedly away.' (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith: 610 and Sahih Muslim, Hadith: 856)

The narrator of this Hadith; Abu Salih As-Samman (rahimahullah) states that when one hears [scary/ eerie] sounds [and fears the presence of evil Jinns] one should call out the adhan, since it has the effect of chasing away the shaytan.

Based on this, people have the habit of calling out the adhan in a new home before moving in, so as to chase away the evil Jinn therefrom.

DEEDS FOR BARAKAH (BLESSINGS) IN THE HOME

In addition to the above, to acquire barakah in the home, one may practice any of the following, for their general good effect (without considering them as actual sunnahs).





In one Hadith Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) said: 'A house that has vinegar will never be destitute.' (Sunan Tirmidhi, Hadith: 1841. Musnad Ahmad, vol. 3 pg. 353)

5 Invite friends and family for a meal

It is recorded that the senior Tabi'i; Sayyiduna 'Urwah ibn Zubayr (rahimahullah) had invited the people of Madinah to his new home that he built in 'wadi 'aqiq'. The narration states that those who attended made du'as for barakah as well. (Siyar A'lamin Nubala, vol.4 pg.428)

Many Muslims have this habit too. This is so that the property can be blessed with their presence, du'as and the barakah of feeding people -which is extremely rewarding.

6 The Book Shifa

An elderly and very Respectable 'Alim; Shaykh Muhammad Nimr Al-Khatib (rahimahullah) [who was at the age of 110 when I met him] mentioned that it was a common habit when he was growing up for people to keep the kitab of Imam Qadi 'Iyadh (rahimahullah): Shifa in their homes, businesses etc. for attaining barakah.

This kitab is one of the most comprehensive books that discusses the life and lifestyle of Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam). It enjoyed universal acceptance throughout the centuries.

These ten deeds are some of which one may practice for protection as well as blessings in the home.

In addition to the above, every sunnah of our Beloved (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) has immense barakah and protection in it. We should always endeavour to inculcate as much of the sunnah as possible in our live.

Source: *HadithAnswers.com*,
Moulana Muhammad Abasoomar

1 Say the Salam when entering Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) told Sayyiduna Anas (radiyallahu'anhu) – as part of a lengthy narration-: O my son! Whenever you enter your house, say salam. This will be a source of Barakah- blessing- for you and your family. (Sunan Tirmidhi, Hadith: 2698)

2 Recite Quran The Quran in general is a great source of blessing. Undoubtedly, one who seeks barakah (blessing) should indeed recite the Quran and keep it respectfully in the place wherein barakah is being sought.

3 Nafil Salah Sayyiduna Zayd ibn Thabit (radiyallahu'anhu) reports that Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) said: 'Offer your [nafil/ optional] Salah in your homes, for the best Salah -besides the Fard- is the one offered at home.' (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith: 731)

'Allamah Nawawi (rahimahullah) has explains three reasons for this:

1. It is a source of Barakah.
2. It chases away the Shaytan/evil Jinn.
3. It is closer to sincerity. (Fathul Bari, Hadith: 731)

Therefore those who make this a habit, will -insha Allah- notice increase in the blessings of that home. In fact, Hafiz Ibn Hajar has explained that it is recomended to make salah the first thing done in any new property, as a means of being grateful to Allah's bounty and to acquire Barakah. (Fathul Bari, hadith: 917)

4 Keep Dates and Vinegar in the home Sayyidatuna 'Aishah (radiyallahu'anha) reports that Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) said: 'A house which has dates will never suffer hunger.' (Sahih Muslim, Hadith: 5304)



Ramadaan

TOOLKIT

The month of Ramadaan is filled with tremendous opportunity to greatly multiply our rewards. One Fardh act performed in this month earns 70 times more reward than the same act performed out of it. As an example, to equal a Juma performed in Ramadaan, one will have to perform Jumats over a period of almost one and a half years out of it.

Ibn al Jawzi rahimahullah said, "By Allah, if the people in the graves were asked, "What do you wish for?" they would reply, "One day of Ramadaan." (Tafsirah 2:78)

Here are some ways to maximize this month:

1. MONTH OF THE QURAN

Allah Ta'ala details a complaint of Nabi sallallahu alaihi wa sallam: "The Messenger will say: O my Lord! Indeed, my people abandoned this Quran." (Quran 25:30)

Some of the ways people abandon the Quran is by talking nonsense when it is recited, not believing in it, not trying to understand it, not acting upon it and not reciting it. (Tafsir Ibn Kathir)

2. MONTH OF DUA

"Say, O Prophet: Never would my Lord even care for you, O people, were it not for your calling upon Him in worship and need." (Quran 25:77)

Ramadaan has a multitude of times when Dua is accepted, among them: At the time of Sehri

(Bukhari), while fasting (Tirmidhi), at the time of Iftaar (Tirmidhi), on Quran completion (Darimi).

3. MONTH OF CHARITY

"Spend charitably from the wholesome things you have earned and from all that We have produced from the earth for you. Do not target what is bad to spend from it in charity, though you yourselves would not take without closing your eyes to accept it." (Quran 2:267)

This verse instructs us to ensure our charity is of the best standard. Upgrade your charity by giving good quality items, giving what you would wish to receive and giving the purest of your money.

The purpose of charity is that the distance between rich and poor becomes less. (Ibn Kathir) This is empowerment in the true sense of the word that the world is desperately seeking.

We need to also seek out those in need who might not outwardly have the signs of poverty: "Give to the poor who, confined to the path of Allah, are unable to move about in the land for livelihood. One ignorant of their condition

would think them rich because of their self-restraint. You shall recognize them by their mark of poverty. They ask not of people persistently." (Quran 2:273)

"...the needy is he who neither has enough resources to sustain him, all the while people are unaware of his need so they do not give to him, nor does he ask people for anything." (Bukhari)

4. MONTH OF BLESSING

"Indeed, those whom you worship instead of Allah can provide you with nothing! So seek all of your provision with Allah and worship Him and be thankful to Him. To Him you are to be returned." (Quran 29:17)

The hadith highlights the fact that Ramadaan is the month wherein a true believer's sustenance is increased. (Sahih Ibn Khuzaymah, hadith 1887) One is the natural blessing of the month. The other is actions that we do in Ramadaan that bring about blessing in sustenance. These can be practiced upon even out of Ramadaan and include doing good deeds, cutting down on sin and giving charity.



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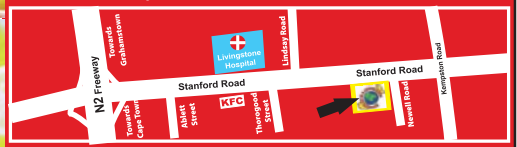
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Duas

THAT CHANGED THE
world

PART 2

A dua made by the average person can quite literally change destiny. The Prophet ﷺ said, "Nothing can change qadr (destiny) except dua." [Tirmidhi] But what happens when a Prophet makes a dua? The ripple effects are grand enough to change the course of history forever!

Here are is part two of some Duas that the Prophets made. These duas were loved by Allah so much that He immortalized them in the Quran. There must be something superbly special about them.

Dua Two: Prophet Ebrahim alaihis salaam

This is the Dua Ebrahim عليه السلام made that saved him from his enemies. It is reported in Sahih Bukhari that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, "Hasbuna Allahu wa ni'ma al-wakeel was said by Ebrahim عليه السلام when he was thrown into the fire."

حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

Hasbuna Allahu wa ni'ma al-wakeel

Sufficient for us is Allah, and [He is] the best Disposer of affairs. [Surah Ale-Imran:173]

This Dua was also said by the Prophet ﷺ and by his companions at times it seemed there was no

hope. It is even reported in Surah Al-Ahzab that when a group came to the believers asking, "Aren't you scared? All of these people have gathered to attack you!" they replied with this very Dua.

Ebrahim عليه السلام was the only Muslim alive in the entire world at the time. He faced Nimrod, one of the most tyrannical, vicious and powerful rulers in the world. The fire was lit by his people and fueled for three days. Ebrahim عليه السلام knew he was going to be thrown into the fire.

As soon as he got to the edge of the fire, this young boy alone in the entire world without a single source of support (not even from his own father) says these beautiful set of words, "Allah is sufficient for me and He is the best of protectors/disposer of affairs."

These words changed his entire fate.

When it came from the heart, it meant, "Oh Allah, you're all that I need, I don't need anybody else, I don't need an army, I don't need the world to come and save me, I only need Allah, Allah is sufficient for me, you alone oh Allah, are the Powerful, the all-Seeing, you know my situation, you see my

affairs, you can control the situation, oh Allah I only need You."

'Wa ni'mal wakeel' – and what a perfect, amazing wakeel. A wakeel is someone who you have delegated authority to, somebody you've basically let take over. When you pay a top-notch lawyer, you sit back, and he does all the work for you – that's what a wakeel is. You put him in charge, you know you can't do a good job, you know he can do a better job. So when we say 'Hasbiy-Allah', we are saying that 'Oh Allah, you are all that I need', and this affirms two things:

1. Allah Ta'ala is perfect and He has the perfect Names and Attributes. The only way Allah can be sufficient for you is if Allah is all-Seeing, all Knowing, He knows who you are, He cares about you, is all-Loving. He is all-Powerful and has the power to protect you. So you are affirming each and every attribute of His perfection when you say 'Hasbiy-Allah'.

2. You are affirming your own faith in Allah and your reliance on Him, i.e. 'Oh Allah I know you have these Attributes and you will bless me with the effects of these Attributes in my own life'. So, you affirm your own faith in Allah's perfection.

The result of Ebrahim

🕋 Dua:

Allah Ta'ala commanded the Fire to be cool and peaceful for Ebrahim ﷺ. Can you imagine the amount of faith Ebrahim ﷺ must have had to say these words purely from the heart then jump into a raging fire?

The Sahaba 🕌 who said these same words at the Battle of Ahzab were rewarded with Allah's blessing and favor. The battle of Ahzab was an impossible physical battle. 1500 Muslims ranged against a force 10,000 strong. They were also held siege so long that food and water ran out. They were running out of dates in the city of palm trees! They could not last any longer without any external supplies.

So when they said these words, Allah sent them an army of Angels they could not see. The army manifested as a thunderstorm, a hurricane in the middle of the desert. The largest army in the history of Arabia was defeated without a single sword being raised and no battle ever taking place. All because they said, "Hasbun-Allahu wa ni'mal wakeel".

You must of course do everything that is in your power first when you delegate your affairs entirely to Allah. This does not mean you sit back lazily without taking action. The Sahaba 🕌 defended

Madinah

Munawwarah as much as they could, digging a trench for seven days the size of which the Arabs never seen before.

Yet another example of this Dua is in the story of Aisha 🕌. It was when she heard people were spreading rumours about her, slandering her name. The shock was so severe that she fainted and when she regained consciousness, the first thing she said was, "Hasbiy Allahu wa ni'mal wakeel. Have the people actually said something like this?"

At the time, Aisha 🕌 was very young, and yet the first thing that came to her tongue was 'Hasbiy-Allahu wa ni'mal wakeel!' which shows that she clearly knew this Dua and it was a part of her nature.

The situation got very dire as the slander continued to spread until finally Allah Ta'ala revealed verses in the Quran in support of Aisha 🕌 and clearing her name.

This is one of those powerful Duas

that

we need to say when we are wronged, when we are tested, when it appears that all roads have been cut off, or when we face a large enemy. Whenever you are in a very tight situation, especially when it seems there is no hope, remember Ebrahim ﷺ and how hopeless and alone any one of us might have felt; then look at how the Dua changed his life forever.

A major lesson in this Dua is that in all three incidents (Ebrahim alaihis salaam, the Sahaba 🕌 at Ahzab, and Aisha 🕌), none of them specified how to be saved. This is part of the perfection of the Dua. They didn't ask Allah how to save them and what to do. They simply left it to Allah and trusted His infinite wisdom.

Source: Duas that Changed the World

The Battle of

BADR

The glorious Battle of Badr was fought in Ramadan 1438 years ago. It set the foundation for the spread and preservation of Islam till today.

Here are some lessons from this battle:

BEING FIRST

Those Sahaba who participated in Badr held a higher rank than others. The best of the Angels are those that were present at the battle of Badr: Jibreel alaihis salaam came to the Prophet sallallahu alaihi wa sallam and asked, 'How do you rate the people among you who were present at Badr?' He said: 'They are the best of the Muslims,' or something similar. [Jibreel alaihis salaam] said: 'So it is with the angels who were present at Badr.' [Bukhari]

The Prophet sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said regarding the people of Badr: "...perhaps Allah looked upon the people of Badr and said: 'Do what you wish, for I have forgiven you.'" [Bukhari]

DUA

The Prophet sallallahu alaihi wa sallam spent the entire night of 17 Ramadan 2 AH in Dua, beseeching Allah Ta'ala for help. This is a feature of the lives of the Prophets alaihimus salaam, that they always turned in Dua to Allah Ta'ala for the fulfilment of all their endeavours.

OPTIMISM

When the small group of poorly equipped Muslims faced the larger,

better equipped enemy forces, the Prophet sallallahu alaihi wa sallam consulted with the Sahaba on the way forward. The Sahaba answered with great optimism, pledging their support in no uncertain terms. Sa'd bin Muadh radhiallahu anhu spoke up and then Miqdad radhiallahu anhu: "We will do battle on your right and on your left and in front of you and behind you."

Throughout the history of Islam, Muslims have produced some of their most sterling achievements in the month of Ramadan. Here is a brief glimpse into some of them:

1. MAKKAH MUKARRAMAH

The city of Makkah was conquered without a battle on 20th Ramadan 8 AH. This was one of the most important dates in Islamic history for after it, Islam was firmly entrenched in the Arabian Peninsula.

2. SPAIN

By 92 AH Spain was under the tyrannical rule of King Roderic of the Visigoths. Roderic had forced his six million serfs and persecuted Jews to seek the aid of the Muslims of North Africa. Musa ibn Nusair, the Umayyad governor of North Africa, responded by sending his general Tariq ibn Ziyad at the head of 12,000 Berber and Arab troops. In Ramadan of that year, they

confronted the combined Visigoth army of 90,000 Christians led by Roderic himself. Not only was Roderic and his forces completely annihilated, but Tariq and Musa succeeded in liberating the whole of Spain, Sicily and the south of France. This was the beginning of the Golden Age of Spain where Muslims ruled for over 700 years.

3. PALESTINE

In Ramadan 682 AH, Salahuddin Ayyubi, after battling the Crusaders for years, finally drove them out of Syria.

4. MONGOLS

In the seventh century AH the Mongols of Genghis Khan swept across Asia destroying everything that lay in their path. In 617 AH Samarkand, Ray, and Hamdan were put to the sword causing more than 700,000 people to be killed or made captive. In 656 AH Hulagu, the grandson of Genghis Khan, continued this destruction. Even Baghdad, the leading city of the Muslim world, was sacked. Some estimate that as many as 1,800,000 Muslims were killed in this awesome carnage. With the whole Muslim and Christian world threatened, Saifuddin Qutuz from the Mamluks of Egypt, united the Muslim army and met the Mongols at Ain Jalut on 26th Ramadan 668 AH. They crushed the Mongol army and reversed this tidal wave of horror.


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INSIGHT INTO FIQH

Differences between the Shafi and Hanafi Mathab in Marriage and Divorce



South Africa has a healthy fusion between followers of the Shafi and Hanafi Fiqh. Many a home will have a mix of members following the two schools of thought within Islamic jurisprudence.

In view of this, we bring you a simplified version of the main differences between the Shafi and Hanafi Mathabs with regards to marriage and divorce. This is only intended as a guide and detailed answers should be sought from the respective Ulama.

1 Witnesses to the Marriage

Shafi: The witnesses can only be male.

Hanafi: The witnesses can be one male and two females.

2 Guardian (Wali)

Shafi: A female's marriage is not valid except with the permission of the Wali.

Hanafi: An adult female has an independent right to get married and a Nikah will be valid if contracted without the Wali's permission. However, from a moral perspective, she should consult her father and be represented by him.

3 Ihram

Shafi: Anyone in a state of Ihram cannot contract a Nikah, whether bride or groom, nor can they act as a Wali.

Hanafi: Marriage in a state of Ihram is valid.

4 Breastfeeding

Shafi: Five separate occasions of full breastfeeding for a child under two years old makes one a foster mother to the breastfed child and prohibits marriage.

Hanafi: Any amount of breastfeeding, even a drop of milk, for a child under two and a half years old makes one a foster mother to the breastfed child and prohibits marriage.

5 Mahr (Dowry)

Shafi: Anything that can be lawfully used as a price may be given as payment of Mahr, and can be an article, financial obligation or the use or benefit of something. There is no minimum.

Hanafi: Mahr has to be from wealth and the minimum amount is equivalent to the value of around 31 grams of silver.

6 Forced Divorce

Shafi: If a person was unjustly forced, by being threatened with death, severe beating or maiming to issue a divorce, it will not be valid.

Hanafi: Verbal divorce by force is valid.

7 Iddat (Waiting Period)

Shafi: The iddat for a lady who is divorced and is not pregnant will be three tuhurs (periods of purity between menstrual cycles) if she experiences menses.

Hanafi: The iddat for a lady who is divorced and is not pregnant will be three menstrual cycles if she experiences menses.

8 Revoking Divorce

Shafi: Taking a lady back into Nikah after a revocable divorce is only valid by explicitly stating it.

Hanafi: Taking a lady back into Nikah after a revocable divorce is valid by stating it, or by touching with desire, kissing, etc.

Get our past **five** topics covered in this feature: Differences in Qurbani, Fasting, Travel and Cleanliness. Email info@islamicfocus.co.za or whatsapp us on **+27 78 672 7797** with your request.

NOTE

These rules are collected from the mainstream views of the Muftis of the two Mathabs. They are listed to give an appreciation of the differences and to remove any misconceptions. They are basic and might

have additional conditions attached. Please consult an Aalim.

They can also serve as a handy guide for teachers and Imams.

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USING AUDIOBOOKS

TO ENHANCE TEACHING OF READING

I would like to elaborate on using audiobooks to enhance the teaching of reading in our intermediate phase classrooms. It can improve the literacy levels, not only in intermediate phase classrooms but even beyond. An audiobook is a digital or recorded version of someone's voice reading out a story. It can either be used in conjunction with the companion book (which is a printed version of the book), or by itself. Research has shown that audiobooks can be successfully used to rekindle the love of reading. Audiobooks are not a new resource, in fact they have been around for a long time, and can be used by busy teachers and parents to bridge the literacy gap that exists in the teaching of English reading to our learners in primary schools.

Teachers and parents will know that struggles with reading not only affect learners' achievement in the languages, but across all subjects. By grade 4, reading is often seen by learners as a chore, rather than an enjoyable activity. In the foundation phase (first 3 years of compulsory schooling), children were learning to read, however, from the intermediate phase onwards, children are reading in order to learn. Thus it is vital that children read with understanding. A great number of learners are learning to read English, which is often not their mother tongue. Many children view reading as a chore, rather than as an enjoyable activity. Daily reading at home not always taking place since parents have busy lifestyles. For some learners, their reading abilities lie below their grade level and others can read



English, but they cannot read with understanding. Other challenges faced by teachers:

- Teaching reading to children in overcrowded classrooms is difficult with a single teacher.
- The focus of teaching children to read is not always on comprehension and understanding.
- Post-reading activities such as writing and discussing the stories being read need greater emphasis in the classroom.
- Children with learning disabilities (visual tracking issues, dyslexia, etc.) struggle to read and require interventions over and above what is ordinarily available in the classroom.

HOW DO AUDIOBOOKS WORK?

Audiobooks are recorded versions of a storybook or novel that is read out by someone, usually in a calm and easy to listen to voice. Audiobooks can be used across multiple platforms, this includes audiobooks in mp3 format that can be downloaded and used on kindles and computers, as well as the kindle app that can be used on any smartphone or tablet. There are also websites that provide resources for stories in English, and free of charge as well. Learners will be able to download and can listen to stories both at school using a kindle and a pair of headphones, or at home, using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer

provided they have Internet access. Audiobooks are best used in conjunction with the companion book, which is the printed version of the story. As such, the learner



listens as he follows running his finger along the printed words. This assists with pronunciation of words, which is very useful if the learner comes from a home where English is not his mother tongue. Audiobooks allow for a convenient way of “reading” books when short on time. It can be highly enjoyable and a fun way to encourage reading in children. Some local libraries stock audiobooks. They can also be downloaded free of charge online. Audiobooks can be downloaded onto a smartphone (no real need for purchasing other expensive devices).

CAN WE MAKE THIS A REALITY IN OUR CLASSROOMS? AND WHAT ABOUT AT HOME?

We need headphones, computers or laptops and Internet connectivity to make it possible for teachers to download these audiobooks and make them available in their classrooms. There are many public libraries that have audiobooks for use.

- Children find audiobooks **fascinating**; rediscover the joy of reading
- Teaches children the correct pronunciation of words, pacing and use of words in context
- Frees up the teachers’ time in reading aloud to the class
- Provides an **opportunity for choice** for the children, immediately making it appealing for learners.
- Is a good example of an **extension activity**, after the children have finished their classwork, they can relieve their boredom by listening to an audiobook.
- Is an inclusive way of reaching all children, even those that might have mild learning disabilities.
- Parents can use audiobooks at home, whilst they are busy cooking etc., or play audiobooks in the car. Later on, parents can discuss the books with their children, giving children an opportunity to recall and remember what they have heard.

HOW SHOULD AUDIOBOOKS BE USED?

- From about **grade 2** and upward, the learner must be able to read, or be an emergent reader.
- Is best used with **companion book (text version of story being listened to)**.
- Differentiated learning spaces within the classroom allow learners to listen without disturbing others.
- Post-reading activities such as discussions about books must be

follow up activities to develop comprehension skills.

- Can be used to enhance the listening skills of children.

WHAT DOES RESEARCH SAY ABOUT AUDIOBOOKS?

- Students **lose enthusiasm** for reading in the intermediate years (grade 4 onwards).
- Students whose level of reading is **below grade-level**, struggle the most across the board.
- Audiobooks allow for **both group** reading as well as **individual** reading activities
- Audiobooks improve fluency and comprehension as learners become familiar with the “sound and sense” of stories being read out to them. (Carbo, 1996)
- Generating “renewed enthusiasm for reading will ensure enormous progress in all areas of schooling”. (Krashen, 2003)
- Active engagement in reading (as provided by audiobooks) improves literacy levels of older children. (Montgomery, 2009).

Every child should discover the joy of reading. When children love reading, they love learning, thus we will be creating lifelong learners. In addition, their performance in every learning area being taught in English will improve as a result of being able to read with understanding and comprehension.

The Author: Shakira Akabor is a Phd candidate in Inclusive education at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. She has over 12 years’ experience teaching in a mainstream classroom at primary school level. She is especially passionate about the ways we can include rather than exclude children in our classrooms, especially those learners with different learning needs.

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ZIMDAHL Masjid

CULMINATION OF A DREAM

Beverly Hills in Gelvandale, Port Elizabeth is a poor area where Muslims have been living for over 50 years. 10 May 2019 was a historic day in their lives as the first Juma in the area was performed at Zimdahl Masjid.

For decades the Muslims of Beverly Hills were performing Salaah and learning Islam in a simple hut structure built under the supervision of the late Moulana Adam rahimahullah around 1998. It was called Madressa Shamsul Huda. This was then run by Hafiz Tayyib Moosagie from 2005 and in 2012 it was handed over to the Al Fidaa Foundation to manage.

Alhamdulillah, under the able stewardship of the Al Fidaa Foundation and generosity of the Muslim public (together with the donations of a family of Cape Town and businessmen who wish to remain anonymous) a site opposite the road was bought and the building renovated to suit a Masjid in 2019.

Here are personal recollections about the people who made this possible going back over the decades:

The space was initially given by Allies Auto Services to use for the Madressa when they owned the land. It was then sold to Barkat stores thereafter but the Madressa stayed on. The VW factory donated wooden pallets, and a person from a non-Muslim

company donated paint. Moosa Brood from Gelvandale took charge of building the structure. The local children had great fun in helping out. The carpets came from Grahamstown. When the University closed a Musalla, they donated the carpets. Professor Motara who was dean of students at that time, was instrumental in this.

Special note must be made of Hafiz Hassen Kader and Hafiz Rasheed Kapery who served as Ustads alongside Moulana Adam rahimahullah. The young brother Muhammad or "Moegamat" known as "Pikkie", from a small town in the Eastern Cape, became the first Muathin. Boeta Taypi was another key individual who loved to give Athan.

The elderly Ustad, Boeta Raami, who also used to assist in teaching, sometimes taught without pay due to lack of funds. He held the fort when Moulana Adam rahimahullah left.

The name Shamsul Huda seemed to breathe a new life into the area, as many fond memories are recalled of the noticeable change in the community, the respect shown by non-Muslims and the drop in the crime rate.

The full 20 rakaats were read by Moulana Adam rahimahullah and



the hifz students. A special guest was Hafiz Yusuf Jassat who recited the Holy Quran in 2 nights for the first time in the area. Even the elderly and children attended. The community members also witnessed Qurbani, for some this was a first.

In the middle of 2005, due to his advanced age and ailments, Boeta Raami was unable to continue with the Madressa classes. Uncle Hussein Vanker approached Moulana Moosa Moosagie's son, Hafiz Tayyib to take over the Madressa. At that time there were only a few students left. Within a few months of daily Madressa classes resuming, there was an urgent need for more teachers. Hafiz Tayyib's parents and wife joined him. Moulana Ishaq Ackerdien sent trainee Apas from Madressa Saalihaat to assist. Additional Apas were also hired. In 2012, Hafiz Tayyib handed over the running of the Madressa to Al Fidaa Foundation due to business commitments.

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Virtues for earning halaal

Question: Is there any Hadith which says something to this effect that a person who goes out in the morning to search for halaal sustenance for his family will be rewarded?

Answer: Yes indeed.

Sayyiduna Ka'b in 'Ujrah

(radiyallahu'anhu) reports that a man passed by Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam). The Sahabah noted this person's strength and vigour. They remarked: O Nabi of Allah! If only this person was [utilising his ability] in the path of Allah.

Rasulullah (sallallahu'alayhi wasallam) said: 'If he has left his home to earn for his young children, he is [rewarded as if he is] in Allah's path (sabilillah). If he has left his home to earn

for his elderly parents, he is [rewarded as if he is] in Allah's path. If he has left his home to earn for protecting himself [from begging etc.], he is [rewarded as if he is] in Allah's path.

However, if he left his home to earn for show and pride, then he is in Shaytan's path (sabilish Shaytan).'

(Al-Mu'jamul Kabir of Tabarani, Hadith: [19] 282. Also see Targhib, Hadith: 2516 & Majma'uz Zawaid, vol. 4 pg. 325)

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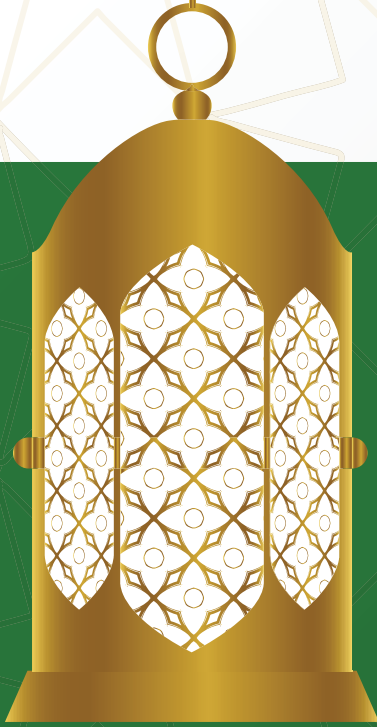
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